



Statement By

Jo-Anne Basile, Executive Director

In Support of HB 6615

Before the General Law Committee

February 16, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Maroney and Representative D'Agostino, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Honorable Members of the General Law Committee.

CT Votes for Animals (CVA) strongly urges the Committee to pass HB 6615, An Act Concerning Dog Racing. CVA is a grass roots animal advocacy organization representing over 8,000 supporters in almost every legislative district in the State.

Greyhound racing, and its attendant live lure baiting techniques, is a cruel and grossly inhumane form of gambling. CT was late getting started in racing dogs and after a relatively short period, the financial decline of the business forced CT to close its last track in 2005. According to Grey2K USA, Greyhound racing is illegal in 42 States with Oregon joining last year. Overall, the industry suffered huge financial losses and continues to decline, a reflection of the public's clear disdain for the abusive tactics associated with racing.

CT residents expressed a collective sigh of relief when the State closed its racing tracks. I believe I speak for many who would be shocked to learn a technical loophole exists in which live greyhound racing could resume without scrutiny.

HB 6615 is an opportunity to do the right thing. For CT residents, live greyhound racing ended in 2005. Passage of HB 6615 will formally close the statutory book on live greyhound racing and ensure that the promise to CT people is kept.

On behalf of all supporters of CT Votes for Animals, I urge the committee favorably pass HB 6615.

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CT Votes for Animals

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